UCSF Medsounds Newsbreak

Weekly News for the UCSF Community VOL. 12, NO. 17 JULY 29, 1997

UCSF Stanford merger timeline

1995

November: UCSF and Stanford announce the possibility of a merger.

1996

May: UCSF holds first town hall meeting on the proposed merger.

July: UC Regents vote 14-4 to approve the governance structure for the proposed merged entity.

September: Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital formalizes alliance with Stanford Health Services.

Nov. 8: An independent review team, which analyzed the business plan prepared for the merger, delivers a report that declares the merger a "sound business decision for the University of California."

Nov. 12: Clinical and basic science chairs in the UCSF School of Medicine vote unanimously to support the merger.

Nov. 13: Regents' committees on health services and finance vote unanimously to approve the formation and capitalization of the joint entity to be called UCSF Stanford Health Care.

Nov. 15: Full board of Regents votes 14-2 to approve the formation and capitalization of new entity.

1997

January: UCSF Stanford names 15 members to its board of directors.

February: Board appoints Peter Van Etten president and CEO; Bill Kerr as vice president and COO.

March: Board names Bruce Wintroub CMO and appoints senior administrators.

April: Top administrators move into UCSF Stanford offices at Executive Park in San Francisco.

May: UCSF Stanford announces postponement of July 1 start date in its new weekly newsletter, Transition Times; UCSF Academic Senate witnesses largest turnout in 10 years as task force is appointed to make recommendations on merger; bills introduced in California Senate and Assembly seeking public disclosure of information by new organization; merger agreements documents made available at UCSF library.

June: Eight UCSF Stanford clinical integration teams form; UCSF Stanford outlines employee benefits packages; UCSF Stanford announces that "service lines" will be key strategy to delivering medical care at new organization.

July: UC Regents Committee on Health Services postpones merger discussion to September; merger start date postponed until Nov. 1.

Faculty concur with moratorium on human cloning

By BRAD FOSS

Academicians from UCSF and UC Berkeley believe President Clinton was right in issuing a five-year moratorium on human cloning research, but say a consensus may never be reached on whether researchers should continue to develop the technology that enabled the cloning of an adult sheep.

That's a question that needs to be fleshed out by society as a whole, they said at a recent forum sponsored by the UC Systemwide Biotechnology Research and Education Program at UC Berkeley.

Bernard Lo, director of medical ethics at UCSF and a member of the President's National Bioethics Advisory Commission, which recommended the moratorium, said an attempt to clone humans now would be unethical. Cloning techniques are still relatively new, he said, and don't meet "the usual requirements for safety and effectiveness" required for human research.

"We thought that much more animal research was needed," Lo added.

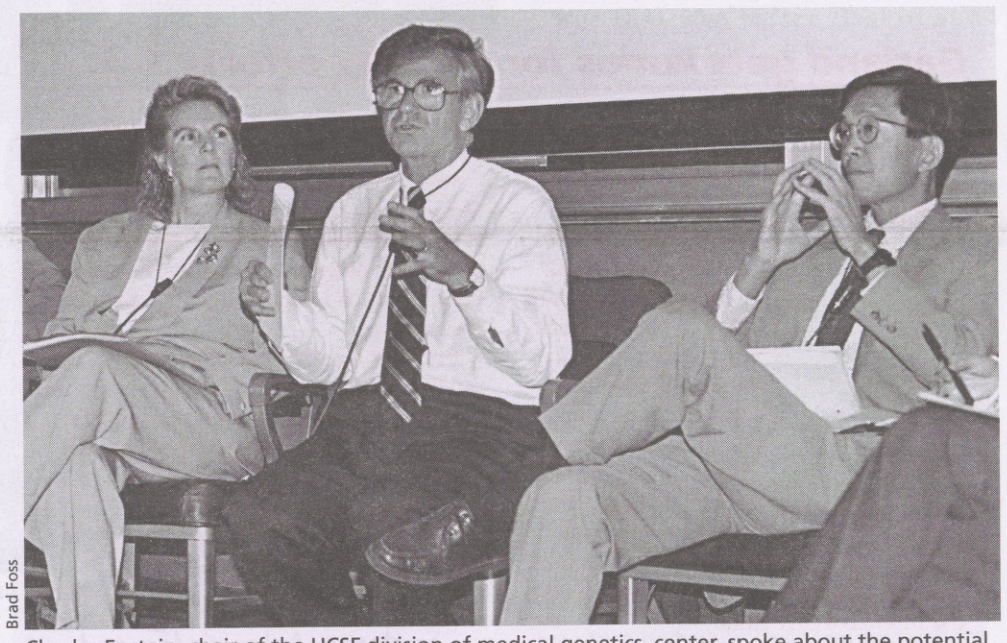
In its final report to President Clinton in June, the commission concluded that attempts to clone humans would at this time be an "irresponsible, unethical and unprofessional act." A moratorium would provide more time to collect and analyze data from animal experimentation, assess the prospective safety and efficacy of the procedure in humans and allow for "fuller national debate of ethical and social concerns," the commission wrote.

The moratorium permits scientists to conduct research on clones of human embryos, but it prohibits them from implanting duplicate embryos into a woman's womb to create people.

The scientific technique, patented by Ian Wilmut of the Roslin Institute in Scotland, involved removing the nucleus of an unfertilized egg and substituting the nucleus of a cell taken from the udder of an adult sheep. Once the egg was fertilized, it was implanted into a surrogate ewe, which later gave birth to Dolly, the world's first mammal ever to be cloned from the DNA of an adult cell.

But Troy Duster, a professor at Berkeley's Institute for Study of Social Change who recently met with Wilmut, said Wilmut told him that partial evidence now indicates Dolly's cells are aging rapidly for a mammal at that age. "It troubled him," Duster said.

Charles Epstein, chair of the UCSF division of medical genetics, said of the potential to clone humans: "It might be hard to get it just right, but there's nothing conceptual that's missing and my feeling is yeah, we will eventually be able to do it. The decision is basically 'do we?'"



Brad Foss

Charles Epstein, chair of the UCSF division of medical genetics, center, spoke about the potential for human cloning at a forum held at UC Berkeley last week. Bernard Lo, director of medical ethics at UCSF, and Karen Lebacqz, a professor in Berkeley's department of ethics also spoke.

According to George Scangos of Exelixis Pharmaceuticals Inc., human cloning will not be a "profit center" for the biotechnology industry, but "cloning animals could be very useful." The technology could be used to help scientists understand how to regenerate new organs or how to regenerate cells in the pancreas that make insulin.

"I think the technology has both very pragmatic and very long-term implications for understanding how to treat diseases," Scangos said. Just last week, the same research team that created Dolly, announced that it had genetically engineered a lamb – Polly – to carry a human gene in its cells. This technique could theoretically pave the way to test new treatments, or to produce hormones or organs in animals to be used by humans.

Duster believes the debate will remain split between those who support human cloning from a civil libertarian viewpoint and those who oppose it for moral or ethical reasons.

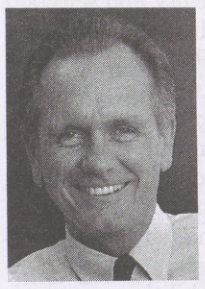
And, he said, decisions about using the technology are not an 'either/or' situation. Although a moratorium exists on human cloning, none exists on cloning research among rhesus monkeys and chimpanzees, with whom humans share an enormous amount of genetic information.

"If we're cloning with these kinds of technology in very high mammals, we could be setting the stage for human cloning at the end of the moratorium," said Duster.

UCSF Stanford Health Care moves 'full speed ahead'

By LISA CISNEROS

Despite a postponement of the start-up date of UCSF Stanford Health Care, the new organization is poised to begin operations on Nov. 1, Chief Operating Officer Bill Kerr said last week.



Kerr

"We're not standing still at this interim period," he said. "We're moving full speed ahead."

Indeed, although there have been three delays to date, UCSF stands on the brink of creating a historic clinical partnership with Stanford in the form of UCSF Stanford Health Care.

"I think we've made substantial progress in the planning since I joined UCSF Stanford in late March," Kerr said. "I think the systems are moving forward so we can assure employees that our payroll, benefits, purchasing and various accounting systems will be ready to go.

"And while we were indeed moving on a pathway to go live Sept. 1, with the decision to await a September Regent approval, it gives us time to refine those systems and begin to explore other opportunities for collaboration."

UCSF Stanford officials also can assure employees of both campuses that the merger will result in fewer layoffs than the 5 percent projection. "The number of employees hired from both organizations will be substantially higher than the originally forecasted 95 percent," Kerr said.

Letters to employees stating they will likely get a job offer from UCSF Stanford Health Care, pending final approval by UC Regents in September, will go out this week. The actual number of merger-related layoffs will be available before the Regents meet on Sept. 18 to vote on a series of agreements that define and detail the scope of the merger — including its impact on the workforce. Regents also must approve agreements that identify the financial documents and reports the merged medical center must provide to the parent universities, outline the facilities and clinical activities to be merged, explain the specific assets and liabilities to be transferred to the new entity and detail affiliations with the medical schools and other professional schools at UCSF.

From the onset of merger discussions, UCSF Stanford officials have said that the clinical integration of these prestigious academic health centers is the best

(See **Merger update** on page 4)

UC, Mexico reach pact on research, education

The University of California and Mexico's National Council on Science and Technology have entered into the most comprehensive research and education collaboration ever established between a US university and Mexico.

Under the five-year agreement, UC, recognized as the premier public institution of higher education and research in the US, and the council, Mexico's foremost agency for support of graduate education and research, will establish a partnership that will increase the formation of cross-border collaborations in graduate education, faculty and researcher exchanges and joint research efforts. The council in Spanish is called El Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnologia or CONACYT.

"Within the last decade, partnerships and joint ventures between governments and industries have strengthened ties between California and Mexico. This cooperative agreement will accelerate academic interaction between the two countries, making scholarship and research an equally vital part of the binational relationship," says UC President Richard C. Atkinson.

Atkinson, UC faculty members and members of the California Congressional delegation joined the council's director, Carlos Bazdresch Parada, Mexican researchers and high-level government officials in a signing ceremony in Mexico City on July 25.

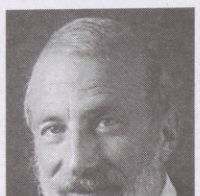
The pact will help both Mexico and California improve graduate education and advance the development of collaborative research both for the benefit of scientific discovery and to address common issues, such as the environment, trade and immigration.

The agreement guarantees that academic cooperation between UC and Mexico advances beyond the longstanding informal tradition of cross-border research

(See **Mexico** on page 3)

Ring serves as associate dean at Mount Zion

Ernest Ring has been appointed associate dean of the UCSF School of Medicine with responsibilities for programs at UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center.


Ring

As associate dean, Ring will oversee clinical and research programs, education of medical students and housestaff, recruitment of faculty, and selection of clinical chiefs at UCSF/ Mount Zion. He will work in close collaboration with Martin Diamond, director of UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center and Herbert Goodman, chief of staff.

Ring will remain as chief of radiology at UCSF/Mount Zion, a position he has held since 1993. His responsibilities as associate dean will include raising and allocating funds for medical school programs at UCSF/Mount Zion. Among the many projects he will take on is oversight of the continued expansion of the UCSF Cancer Center, located at UCSF/Mount Zion.

"Dr. Ring's leadership will be important in sustaining the vigor and excellence of UCSF/Mount Zion in fostering interdisciplinary patient care and outreach services. Among his other activities, Dr. Ring will play a key role in our managed care relationship with Brown & Toland Medical Group," says Chancellor Haile Debas, dean of the School of Medicine.

In his new role, Ring will also be a liaison between the faculty at Mount Zion and the Parnassus site, and between community physicians and full-time faculty.

A native of Detroit, Ring is a graduate of Wayne State University where he also received his medical degree in 1969. After completing his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, he spent an additional year there as chief resident in the department of radiology and as a clinical fellow in cardiovascular radiology. He was on the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania for six years before joining UCSF in 1982.

Ring was one of the first specialists in the field of interventional radiology and has helped develop techniques used in clinical research. His major research interest is in the treatment of liver disease and adaptation of interventional radiology procedures to the biliary tract and portal vein.

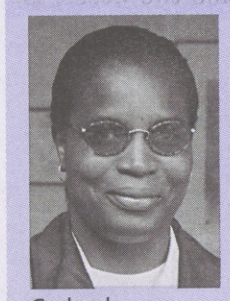
Lisa Cisneros

Health policy center marks five years

Co-directors Edward O'Neil, right, associate professor of family and community medicine, and Jonathan Showstack, left, professor of medicine and health policy in the division of general internal medicine, celebrate at a July 22 reception marking the five-year anniversary of the UCSF Center for the Health Professions Center. Mayor Willie Brown issued an official proclamation presented by San Francisco City Supervisor Susan Leal, center, which "recognizes the center for its outstanding achievements and service as a local and national role model for others who seek to improve the health and well-being of people and their communities." A representative from Assemblywoman Carole Migden's (D-San Francisco) office also presented center co-directors with a "Certificate of Merit."

Garland gets kudos for security efforts

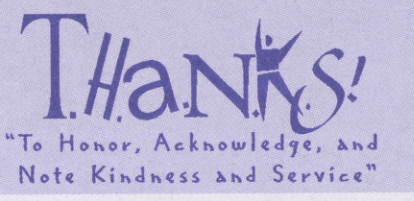
The most nerve-wracking job experience to date for personal safety officer Terrie Garland also turned out to be one of her most gratifying.


Garland

Garland recently received a Medical Center Safety Award for her part in tracking down a woman who had tried to sneak her newborn child out of the hospital without permission. The baby, who had been drug-exposed and in need of medical attention, was safely returned to the intensive care unit.

Garland, who helps organize quarterly fire drills, safety rounds and the Medical Center's disaster drills, is excellent at "keeping the peace and alerting employees to potential theft situations," says Peter Balestreri, director of security. "I consider her a prime asset to the Security Services Department."

From helping LPPI doctors calm an agitated patient to watching over the ACC in the pre-dawn hours to assisting visitors navigate the campus, personal safety officer Garland has earned our "thanks."



UCSF among elite, SFGH first in AIDS for seventh year

The UCSF Medical Center is again rated among the country's elite hospitals, according to US News and World Report's annual rankings. And for the seventh consecutive year, San Francisco General Hospital is ranked first in AIDS care.

The magazine's 1997 "America's Best Hospitals Guide," which evaluated care at 1,800 hospitals nationwide appear in the July 28 issue. For the third straight year, US News ranks UCSF seventh overall on its "Honor Roll" of the nation's top hospitals.

To make the honor roll a hospital had to "rank high" in at least six of the 17 specialties assessed by the magazine. UCSF, which was rated highly in 11 specialties, made the magazine's ranking in 15 of the 17 categories.

The UCSF Medical Center made the top ten in AIDS (4), cancer (10), endocrinology (3), gastroenterology (6), neurology (5), ophthalmology (7) and pulmonary disease (7). Other UCSF rankings by specialty were: cardiology (22), geriatrics (14), gynecology (19), orthopedics (14), otolaryngology (14), pediatrics (19), psychiatry (13), urology (11).

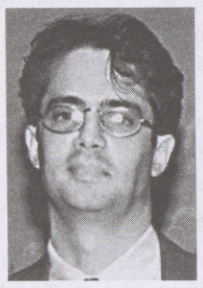
Rankings for 13 of the specialties were based on reputation — including surveys of a geographic cross-section of 150 board-certified specialists in each category — and various medical data. Rankings in ophthalmology, pediatrics and psychiatry were based on reputation alone.

UCSF has finished among the top each year the magazine has ranked UC hospitals. Stanford University Medical Center this year ranked eighth overall. Stanford was rated highly in 11 specialties — including cancer (7) and cardiology (7).

The top 16 hospitals in order of honor roll rankings are: Johns Hopkins, Baltimore; Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.; Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston; Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC; UCLA Medical Center; Cleveland Clinic; UCSF; Stanford; Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston; University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor; University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle; Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis; University of Chicago Hospitals; Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City; and Columbia University-Presbyterian Medical Center, New York.

Contracts & Grants

Paul Brunetta, pulmonary fellow: Received a $32,000 pulmonary fellowship award from Glaxo Wellcome Inc., a leading research-based pharmaceutical firm.


Brunetta

Brunetta is among the winners of more than $400,000 in medical research grants for respiratory disease from Glaxo Wellcome. He was selected from among 24 applicants by an advisory board comprised of distinguished leaders in the field of pulmonary medicine across the US.

Brunetta's project is titled "Integrin Characterization in a Transgenic Mouse Lung Cancer Model."

Natalie Bzowej, fellow, Gastroenterology Unit , VAMC: Awarded the Amgen/AASLD Physician Research Development Award. This four-year faculty development grant is awarded to the most promising research fellow in the US and Canada who is committed to a career in hepatology. Bzowej will be examining the molecular epidemiology of hepatitis C in injection drug users.

Bzowej

Lorna Dove, fellow, Gastroenterology Unit, VAMC: Received a four-year faculty development grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study virological and immunological variables influencing the progression of hepatitis C virus infection in patients with HIV coinfection. Dove's research is a collaborative effort between the AIDS and drug abuse programs at SFGH and VAMC.

Ganem

Donald E. Ganem, investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Laboratories, professor of microbiology and medicine: Selected to receive a five-year $500,000 grant for infectious disease research by Bristol-Meyers Squibb. Ganem, whose research has helped shape the understanding of infectious diseases, plans to use the grant funds to study Kaposi Sarcoma-associated herpes virus and to conduct new experiments on hepatitis pathogenesis.

Wolfgang Sadee, professor and vice chair, pharmacy and pharmaceutical chemistry: Received two gifts over the past year totalling $228,300 from the Homeland Foundation to be used in support of his studies on molecular mechanisms underlying drug addiction. Sadee's laboratory focuses on opioid receptors involved in narcotic addiction.

With the Homeland Foundation grant, Sadee's laboratory, which has recently joined forces to establish the Center of Neurobiology of Drug Addiction at UCSF, will be able to expand their work to include dopamine receptors, which are thought to play a key role in drug craving and in the reward systems in general. Sadee and his coworkers will address the question of whether dopamine receptors may be similarly sensitized upon prolonged exposure to addictive drugs.

Nora Terrault, fellow, Gastroenterology Clinic, VAMC: Awarded the Jan Albrecht, Commitment to Clinical Research Award in Liver Diseases. This two-year grant, which was announced at the recent Digestive Diseases Week in Washington D.C., was awarded to the most promising young faculty member in the US studying clinical aspects of liver disease. Terrault will examine the role of variants of hepatitis B virus in the pathogenesis of liver disease following liver transplantation.

Terrault

Private Support

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Su Salud opens new chapter of health care in Central Valley

By VINCENT PEARSON

Some 100 faculty, staff, students and alumni from UCSF's School of Dentistry and other departments took part July 20 in what can be considered a turning point in the health care of the Central Valley's underserved at the tenth annual Su Salud Health Fair.

It was the last time health care workers would offer migrant farm workers and other impoverished California residents free medical screenings and education in preventative health care during a one-day event. After a successful fundraising effort, Su Salud Inc. was able to procure enough charitable donations to finance the construction of a new building in Stockton that will house a health education center to provide screening, referrals and information year-round.

"We discovered that for the same amount of money that it takes to run a one-day affair, we can run the health education center year-round," says Nelson Artiga, director of the Family Dental Center at San Francisco General Hospital who has organized the UCSF contingent to the fair for the past six years. "This will give people greater access and, as the center becomes more widely known and more widely used, it will have an everlasting impact on the needy whose best chances of staying healthy are through education and prevention."

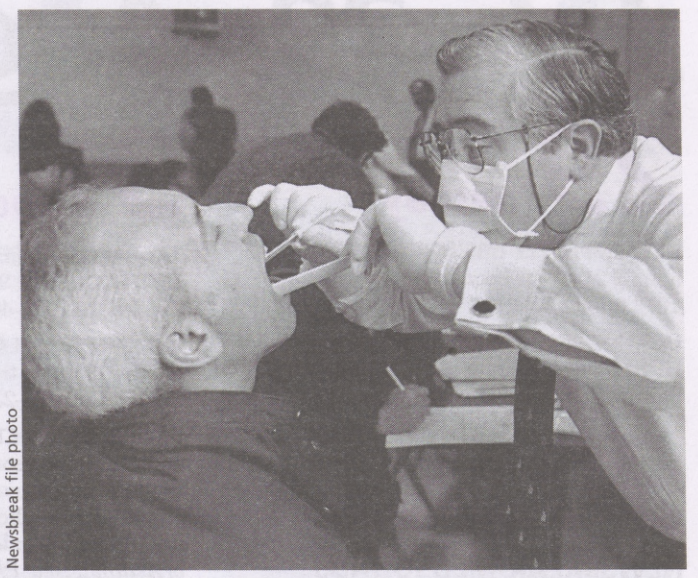
The new education center will be divided into seven learning areas, such as cancer and maternal health, and will include models, videos and other instructional aids geared to get the whole family involved in maintaining their health, says Artiga, coordinator of educational and research activities for Su Salud Inc.

Su Salud, which means 'your health' in Spanish, has been the nation's largest all-volunteer health fair. Every year thousands of California's poorest families descend upon San Joaquin Fair Grounds in Stockton to receive screenings and referrals for a number of ailments ranging from diabetes and tuberculosis, to breast cancer and AIDS. All of the Su Salud staff are volunteers and local medical institutions donate the medication and supplies.

For some poor families, Su Salud is the only source of health care they have ever received. In past years, as many as 18,000 participants traveled from as far away as San Diego and Oregon to benefit from the event. Nearly 95 percent of the participants are Hispanic. Most are migrant workers, poor, uninsured and, frequently, illiterate.

Under the leadership of Artiga — who was recognized recently with the Chancellor's Award for Public Service — volunteer dentists and students check for conditions such as tooth decay, gum disease, oral cancer and diabetes. The screenings are part of the larger mission which includes referrals for future care, patient education, research and continued education for dentists.

"There are incredible levels of unmet health care needs in the community and it makes sense from a public health point of view, not only to screen people, but to refer them to appropriate health facilities and to educate them in prevention," Artiga says.



Newsbreak file photo

Artiga at work

In accordance with the founders' vision, Artiga and his volunteers, aided by Spanish language interpreters, walk patients through a dental education area lined with vivid posters illustrating good dental hygiene and risks resulting from the lack thereof.

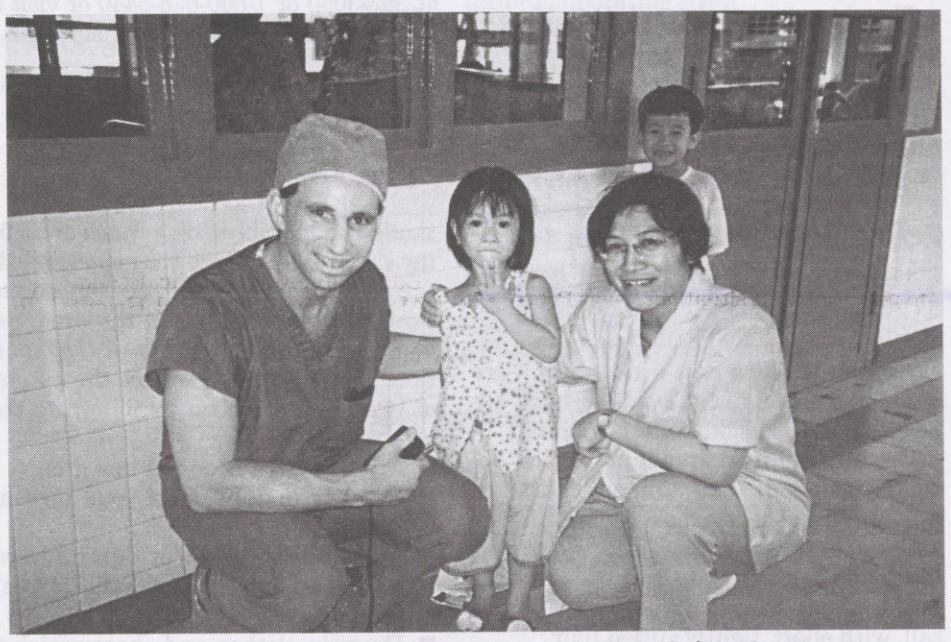
The migrant families are not the only ones who learn at the fair, however. By volunteering at Su Salud, Artiga says students have an opportunity to work with a unique patient population, and as a result, have a better understanding of the wide range of public health issues facing the state.

"Migrant workers are exposed to risks not faced by other populations, says Artiga. "For example, they work with pesticides and they are at a higher risk for oral manifestations of diabetes. Many are uneducated, do not understand basic medical terms or concepts and, often, they are afraid of health care systems."

But Artiga says the fear among immigrants has decreased after he and others conducted a campaign to reassure folks that they would provide health care to citizens "regardless of their immigration status."

To prepare his volunteers for the challenges serving this population, Artiga has developed a day-long course for his volunteers, which he administers the day before the fair.

Of most value, perhaps, Artiga says, is the satisfaction dentists and students get through volunteering. "It's such an incredible feeling," he says, "the patients are extremely grateful, and the students develop a sense of the type of humanitarian work available through volunteering. It's a very powerful and noble experience."



Pediatric urologist Larry Baskin, left, visits Ho Chi Minh City's Hospital No. 1

Baskin exports expertise to Vietnam

Like most people, Larry Baskin, chief of pediatric urology at UCSF's department of urology and pediatrics, occasionally likes to get away from it all, to pursue personal interests and to enjoy the company of old friends.

This year, for fun, Baskin and two pediatric urologist chums decided to travel abroad to Vietnam. In a two-week jaunt destined to touch an unknowable number of lives, the friends, accompanied by nurses and an anesthesiologist from the US and Canada, performed 90 life-altering operations and, in the process, earned a footnote in the nation's medical history.

"The purpose was threefold," Baskin explains, "to take care of patients with complicated pediatric urology problems that [local doctors] don't have the expertise to treat, to train the pediatric surgeons so they can continue to solve these kinds of problems after we leave and to work with close friends in a unique environment since we don't get to work together in the states."

While Baskin deems the pediatric surgeons at Ho Chi Minh City's Hospital Number One "technically excellent," he says the doctors are less specialized and, thus, lack expertise in the relatively new field of pediatric urology. As a result, Vietnamese children suffering from urological abnormalities which are routinely reconstructed in the United States — such as hypospadias, a developmental anomoly in the male in which the urethra opens on the under side of the penis or on the perineum — often go untreated.

But that was before Baskin and friends arrived on the scene.

In the course of their stay, sponsored by the Palo Alto non-profit organization, Interplast, the American team performed four or five operations a day as their Vietnamese colleagues looked on and learned. Within two weeks, the doctors had trained the surgeons in a number of complex new techniques; techniques which will presumably get passed on to generations of Vietnamese born with these afflictions.

Of particular pride to Baskin are three exstrophy operations, which he says were the first-ever performed in the country. Boys with this anomaly are born with a bladder on the outside of their body and frequently have a splayed penis. They are unable to hold urine and have limited or no prospects for reproduction without reconstructive surgery.

"So these kids, ages fifteen, four and seven, were just hanging out with these terrible anomalies and no one could help them." says Baskin. "But when it was over, they were ecstatic."

Baskin's trip was his third international humanitarian mission in three years. In the past, he exported his expertise to Central America and Africa. He and his friends are planning to return to Vietnam next year to check up on patients, teach refresher courses and, of course, to unwind.

"Bottom line," says Baskin, "I get to do what I like to do best, but without all the nuisances involved in the United States. No insurance hassles, no beepers."

—Vincent Pearson

UCSF-Fresno team launches high-tech Alzheimer's research

Researchers at the UCSF-Fresno Alzheimer's Disease Center are using a new state-of-the-art imaging system to provide an extra dimension as they examine the brain looking for clues into a disease for which there is no known cause or cure.

The new image analysis system — the only one of its kind in the San Joaquin Valley — includes a video camera that is attached to a high resolution optic microscope. An image from a small sample of brain tissue is captured by the microscope and camera and then relayed to a computer for analysis.

"With the help of this equipment, not only will we be able to provide better neuropathological diagnosis, but it also will help us launch more sophisticated research into what causes Alzheimer's and related dementia," says Fen-Lei Chang, director of the UCSF-Fresno Center and chief of neurology and rehabilitation services at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Fresno.

"The new system allows us to examine a piece of brain tissue systematically and make unbiased quantitative estimates—providing an opportunity to conduct analyses that otherwise were impossible to do," Chang says.

According to Chang, the equipment enables the research team to use a molecular marker to tag a potential cause of Alzheimer's disease, such as inflammation. An image of inflamed tissue, for example, can then be stored and compared with the locations of other relevant markers. The matching of the exact locations of these markers can give researchers valuable information in their search for clues to the disease, Chang explains.

"Understanding the role of chronic inflammation as a possible cause of Alzheimer's and the use of anti-inflammatory medication for treatment probably present one of the most promising areas of research for this disease at this time," he says.

The new imaging system being used by the UCSF-Fresno team is manufactured by R and M Biometrics of Nashville, Tenn. The equipment was purchased with funds provided by the UCSF-Fresno Foundation, a support organization of the UCSF-Fresno Medical Education Program.

— Joe Rosato

Mexico (from page 1)

projects based on teacher-student and collegial relationships between scientists.

"There is a rich and productive history of collaborative research between UC and Mexican scholars in the arts, humanities and sciences," says Juan-Vicente Palerm, director of the UC Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS). "This agreement is not your usual confirmation of good intentions, but rather an effective instrument that will guarantee a binational infrastructure between institutions that will support and advance the work of some of the finest scholars in Mexico and the United States."

One of UC's many multi-campus research units, UC MEXUS facilitates and supports interdisciplinary and international research related to Mexico, US-Mexico relations and a wide variety of scientific issues of importance to both countries. As director of UC MEXUS, Palerm will coordinate the program for UC.

Mexico has placed a high national priority on CONACYT's support of scientific development. The council funds research, technological development and creation of infrastructures. It sponsors more than 3,000 fellowships for Mexican graduate students abroad each year from an annual fund of more than $300 million.

Of the nearly 1,000 Mexican graduate students who participate in fellowships in the US annually, only 89 are at UC campuses. Within five years, the University and the council want to double that number, says Jaime Martuscelli, CONTACYT's deputy director of science, who will coordinate the program for the council.

"One of CONACYT's primary objectives is to increase Mexico's highly trained human resources, both in number and quality," said council director Bazdresch Parada.

July 29–Aug. 4, 1997

29 Tuesday

NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION: 8:30-10:30 a.m., S 214. Call Leonard Florendo at 476-1073 to schedule.

UCSF MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY VAN: UCSF/Laurel Heights, 3333 California St., parking lot.

30 Wednesday

NEWSBREAK/MEDSOUNDS DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

T'AI CHI CH'UAN–YANG STYLE: This introductory class will increase your strength, flexibility and balance, while helping you achieve an inner state of attentiveness and relaxation. 11 a.m -noon, MU Fitness Center, 505 Parnassus. Call 476-1115.

MERGER TRANSITION SUPPORT GROUP: The Human Resources transition team offers support groups for employees affected by the UCSF Stanford Health Care merger. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., S 182. Call 656-4646 for more information.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Maye Musk, author of Feel Fantastic, presents *Enhance Your Professional Image.* Discover proven methods that will improve your confidence, attitude and communication, 12:10-1 p.m., N 225. Call 476-4394.

INFORMATICS CLASSES: The UCSF Library offers a class on drug information resources, 3-5 p.m, at SFGH. Call 476-2337 for details.

REFRESHER CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION: Great Expectations for Women's Health presents a class for women who've given birth before. This $55 class reviews labor process, breathing, relaxation techniques and medication options, 6:30-9:30 p.m. For location, call 476-6667.

SURVIVING STRESS: Learn how to identify and cope with the stressors in your life, 6-9 p.m., MU Fitness Center. Call 476-1115.

31 Thursday

TAY-SACHS SCREENING CLINIC FOR PREGNANT COUPLES: 9 a.m., UCSF Medical Center. Call 476-4080 for an appointment.

INFORMATICS CLASSES: The UCSF Library offers a class on the Web, 10 a.m.-noon, at SFGH. Call 476-2337 for details.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Stephen C. Lazarus, associate professor of clinical medicine and director of outpatient activities, pulmonary and critical care medicine, presents *Cells, Sales and Savings: Update on the Pathophysiology of Asthma, New Pharmacotherapy & Disease Management Programs*, 12:10-1 p.m., N 225. Sponsored by the department of medicine. Call 476-2138.

UCSF MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY VAN: UCSF/Lakeshore Plaza, 1501-1599 Sloat Boulevard.

August

1 Friday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Jeff Auen presents *Spiritual Anatomy and Healing Practices – Seeing the Whole Human Being.* Research in Western healing traditions has redefined the nature of the subtle field of energy and its impact on health, 12:10-1 p.m., N 225. Sponsored by the Institute of Healing Arts and Sciences. Call 584-4416.

4 Monday

T'AI CHI CH'UAN–YANG STYLE: See July 30 listing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual chili cookoff

The competition is sure to be hot as UCSF holds its sixth annual chili and salsa cookoff on Thursday, Aug. 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Mission Center Building. The winner will receive a cookware set. For an entry form, call 476-2675 or print out a form from the EMPACT! web page at www.empact.ucsf.edu.

Baseball benefit

Join EMPACT! and the San Francisco Giants to raise money to fight AIDS on Sunday, Aug. 31, when the Giants take on the Anaheim Angels at 1 p.m. in 3Com Park. For each ticket purchased, one dollar will benefit the Until There's A Cure Foundation, which will give all of the proceeds to the UCSF AIDS Program at SFGH. Tickets for seats in the upper reserved section are $7.50 for adults and $5.50 for children 14 years and under. Free MUNI service will depart from SFGH and Parnassus. For details, call 476-2675.

Sign language course

The deadline to register for an introductory 14-session course on American Sign Language (ASL), is Monday, Aug. 25. The UCSF Center on Deafness will offer the course beginning Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Elisabeth Ann Prinz, a Deaf bilingual professional who has more than 20 years experience in ASL, is class instructor.

The class, to run through Dec. 17, will meet at Laurel Heights, Suite 115. Cost for the course is $60. For more information, call the UCCD at 476-7094.

Binkley professor visits

James S. T. Yao, a professor of surgery at Northwestern University Medical School, is the Robert W. Binkley Visiting Professor at the department of surgery. He will conduct surgical grand rounds on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 9 and 10, at Toland Hall. Yao, who will speak on "Atheroembolization: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Challenge," is past president of the Society for Vascular Surgery and has co-authored 19 textbooks on vascular surgery.

The Robert W. Binkley Visiting Professorship was established in 1991 with a gift from his son Frederick M. Binkley to provide an opportunity for distinguished surgeons to teach at UCSF. For more information, call 476-1236.

Passport fashion show

Tickets for Macy's Passport '97 "Fusion" presented by American Express, will go on sale on Sunday, Aug. 10. This annual fashion extravaganza, scheduled for Thursday and Friday, Sept. 18 and 19, raises funds for AIDS research and patient services.

Tickets for opening night will be $40 or $55 and $35 or $50 on Sept. 19. For tickets, call Macy's Union Square Box Office or Admissions Network USA at 1-800-678-5440. For more information, call the hotline at 393-3050 or 1-800-678-5440 or visit the website at www.passport97.macys.com.

CRIME ALERT

Police issue warning to employees at Mission Center

UCSF police issued a crime bulletin recently to alert UC employees of two recent incidents when emplyees were victims of crime in the neighborhood adjacent to the Mission Center building.

During the first incident, which occurred at about 9:20 a.m. on Thursday, July 10, a suspect exposed himself. The suspect is described as a dark-skinned black male in his late twenties, stocky build, about 5 feet six or seven inches tall, with short, tightly curled hair.

The second incident, which occurred on Wednesday, July 16, at about 8:15 a.m. on the 3000 block of 16th Street, involved a strong-armed robbery in which a suspect assaulted and forcibly took a watch away from the victim. The suspect was apprehended.

Employees are urged to exercise extra caution when walking in the area, especially to and from points of transportation. Employees can reduce the potential of becoming a victim by following these safety tips:

- Travel with a friend or in a group.
- Be alert and aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid dark, vacant or deserted areas; use well-lit, frequently traveled routes.
- Dress in clothes and shoes which will not hamper movement.

UCSF police provide safety presentations upon request. Call 476-1414 for an appointment.

Merger update (from page 1)

way to enable both institutions to maintain preeminence in patient care, research and education.

"I want to emphasize that the economic issue is not the only driver to the proposal to merge," Kerr said. "We envisioned from the inception of the merger that we can achieve very meaningful academic and clinical benefits in addition to economic benefits."

Children's services has emerged as an early example of the kind of benefits to be gained by collaboration, said Larry Shapiro, UCSF chair of pediatrics.

"Right now, UCSF and Stanford have overlapping outreach activities of specialists. For example, we both send people to Santa Rosa and Modesto. We send people to Salinas, they send people to Monterey. Merely doing away with that duplication of effort, would allow us to provide a lot more outreach services," Shapiro said.

Savings would also be generated by achieving economies of scale, sharing resources and cutting administrative costs, according to Bruce Wintroub, chief medical officer. UCSF Stanford officials hope to cut administrative costs by $32 million or 3 percent of the organization's total budget, he said. With these savings, the enterprise also will be in a better position to provide indigent care as well as to distribute additional funds to academic programs, Wintroub said.

Faculty get involved

As Newsbreak went to press yesterday, faculty from both universities, who have met in teams to discuss various initiatives in clinical integration, such as service line selection and design, funds flow and strategic support, were expected to submit recommendations to the new enterprise. The strategic support team, for example, is defining the mechanisms by which UCSF Stanford can support professional areas that contribute to the mission of the institution. Two very different examples of essential, but not profitable, activities have been discussed: primary care, which is critical for education, public service and necessary to build a delivery system, and autopsy service, which is required for both education and research accreditation.

The UCSF Academic Senate, too, has held three special meetings this year to discuss the impact of the merger. To date among the topics discussed are how faculty should be involved in the governance of UCSF Stanford and whether faculty should periodically assess the effect the merger will have on the educational and research activities of UCSF. At the Academic Senate meeting yesterday, faculty were expected to hear about the financial status of both UCSF and Stanford from Kerr and others. (See Wednesday's issue of Daybreak.)

The Senate Select Committee on Higher Education of the California Legislature also is interested in hearing details of the fiscal health of the medical centers as well as the business plan for the new enterprise. A general research and investigating body that makes recommendations but cannot take action on issues, the committee called for a legislative audit of UCSF Stanford's financial plan.

"I think the audit will be helpful to clarify understanding of the assumptions and conclusions reached in the Hellman report, but we need to focus on the challenges of the future," said Kerr.

UCSF Stanford officials still anticipate significant cuts in payments from Medicare and MediCal as the federal and state governments attempt to cut health care costs and balance budgets. Medicare is the only payer which formally recognizes and reimburses the academic mission. Reductions in both programs are inevitable to balance the federal budget and to respond to projections of trust fund insolvency, Kerr explains.

Facing these and other potential fiscal pitfalls, Kerr reiterates that UCSF does not have the operating margin or the reserves to offset major losses of revenues. "I remain absolutely convinced that we, as UCSF Stanford Health Care, will be far better off than if either institution remained in a stand-alone fashion," he said.

Legislation designed to increase public involvement in the operations of the merged medical center is moving through the legislative process. As negotiations continue, UCSF Stanford officials are optimistic that a compromise can be reached with legislative authors.

Although Kerr has not personally been involved in the discussions with Senator John Burton or Assemblyman Kevin Shelley, authors of the pending legislation, he said, "we're apparently at a point where UCSF Stanford Health Care can assure that public accountability will be maintained to the satisfaction of people we serve."

UCSF Stanford will operate as a private non-profit public benefit corporation — the same status as virtually all community hospitals, other large health care institutions such as the Mayo Clinic, and major public service organizations such as the American Red Cross. As a tax exempt, non-profit corporation, UCSF Stanford must report detailed information annually to federal and state taxing authorities, including all revenues and their sources, expenses, compensation paid to the five highest paid employees and contractors providing professional services, assets, fund balances, and net operating losses and gains.

While responding to events that occur outside its Executive Park headquarters, UCSF Stanford will continue recruiting for management positions over the next few weeks. Lawrence Furnstahl was appointed chief financial officer. He had been vice president and CFO for The University of Chicago. "When management positions are filled, we will begin to focus on bringing managers up to speed on their new responsibilities so they have a better understanding of the organizational structure," Kerr said.

Cancer research grants available

The UCSF Cancer Center is accepting applications for cancer research grants of up to $20,000 for junior faculty. The American Cancer Society has provided a grant to finance these research projects.

The deadline to apply for grants is Tuesday, Sept. 2.

For an application form and for more information, contact Toni Grimes at 476-8824 or email her at grimes@cc.ucsf.edu. Application forms can be downloaded from the Cancer Center website at www.cc.ucsf.edu.